



NOMAD

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January through April



What a wild ride: Nomads look back on 2005

By 1st Lt. David Tomiyama
33d Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Although it's now 2006, let's not forget all the hard work the 33d Fighter Wing put into 2005.

In January, the 728th Air Control Squadron returned to Iraq for the second time in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. More than 150 Demons left for the desert to control and monitor air defense sorties, provide close-air support for humanitarian aid and reconnaissance and direct tanker traffic for refueling efforts. January also saw the wing host Operation Hero, in which Nomad children got a taste of what

their parents go through when deploying and in a deployed environment. A Phase II Operational Readiness Exercise tested the wing's ability to survive and operate during simulated attacks.

February introduced nine new honorary commanders to the wing. The 728th ACS upgraded the AN/TYQ-23 V5 operations module displays, which decreased maintenance downtime. The Demons hosted Deployed Spouses Night for spouses of deployed 728th ACS Airmen, giving them a chance to be pampered and to relax.

March started off sadly as the wing lost one of its own; Tech. Sgt. James Smith passed away at NCO Academy at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. The F-15 West Coast Demo Team performed overseas in Australia, this being only the second time in as many years.

In April, the 33d Maintenance Squadron won its third consecutive intramural basketball championship. The Tennessee School for the Blind got the unique opportunity to touch and feel an F-15 and pilot equipment. Another Phase II ORE tested the wing's ability to survive and

See 2005 page 2

May through August



2005 from page 1

operate.

May had the Lockheed Martin Corp. bring its F-22 cockpit demonstrator to the wing to give Nomads the chance to "fly" the Raptor simulator. The court martial of Maj. Gregory McMillion ended with the former 728th ACS Demon receiving one year of confinement and dismissal from active duty for sending war trophies home from Iraq in 2003.

The wing prepared and readied for the Air Combat Command Unit Compliance Inspection, in which the Nomads received a 99-percent compliance rating. Toward the end of the month, the 728th ACS returned from its four-month deployment to Iraq.

In June, the wing hosted spouses day, in

which spouses of Nomads had the chance to experience what their spouses do on a day-to-day basis. The wing also welcomed Col. Keith Feaga as the new vice commander and Maj. James Petrick as the new 33d Maintenance Operations Squadron commander. The annual wing ceremony honoring the 12 Nomads who perished in the Khobar Towers terrorist attack in 1996 also had a separate ceremony in Niceville, where the 12 Oaks of Freedom were dedicated at Turkey Creek Park.

The 33d Operations Support Squadron captured the intramural volleyball championship and the 60th Fighter Squadron was named the 2004 Raytheon Trophy winners, recognizing the Crows as the best air defense/air superiority

fighter squadron in the Air Force.

In July, the 33d Aircraft Maintenance Squadron welcomed Maj. Rob Gilcrest as its new commander. The 33d MXS also welcomed a new commander with Lt. Col. Justin Fortune taking charge. Hurricane Dennis forced the wing's F-15s to evacuate to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, and personnel to evacuate across the south.

August saw the 58th Aircraft Maintenance Unit win the first-ever head-to-head weapons loading competition, the dorms finish with their renovations and the 33d MXS clean up the static aircraft at Nomad Way and Eglin Parkway and at the Air Force Armament Museum.

See 2005 page 3

September through
December

2005 from page 2

September brought another evacuation by Hurricane Katrina as the F-15s weathered out the storm at Naval Air Station Fort Worth. The aftermath of Katrina had the wing pick up the Operation Noble Eagle missions from the Louisiana Air National Guard.

The 58th Fighter Squadron also participated in Bright Star, representing the Air Force's only fighter unit in a joint exercise in Egypt. Wingman

Day had the entire wing get together for a commander's call, run and picnic.

October joined the 33d FW and the 96th Air Base Wing for a Phase II ORE. The Operational Readiness Inspection this year will be a joint effort. Gen. Ronald Keys, ACC commander, visited the wing.

November saw the announcement that Col. Brett Williams, 33d FW commander, will be

promoted to brigadier general, and the Demo Team finished their 2005 season in Dubai.

December ended the year with the wing's annual Children's Christmas party, which spread holiday cheer to all the Nomad children.

The next milestone for the wing in 2006 will be the ORI in the fall. With deployments, exercises and new leadership on the horizon, the challenge will always be there to "Kill MiGs."

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All photographs are U.S. Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.



33d FW SALUTES

**New Ranks !
New Challenges !
New Responsibilities !**



33d Operations Group:

Lt. Col. David L. Cool

33d Aircraft Maintenance Squadron:

Senior Master Sgt. Andrew C. Wheat

Master Sgt. Robert T. Barrasso

Tech. Sgt. Anthony D. Smith

Staff Sgt. Rachael I. Abbott

Staff Sgt. Zachary T. Bratton

Staff Sgt. Dean L. Couch

Staff Sgt. Walter C. Lang

Staff Sgt. Jeffrey A. Sidabras

Senior Airman Daniel A. Colyer

Senior Airman Michael A. Hedrick

Senior Airman Nicholas A. Mays

Senior Airman Eric T. Mccray

Senior Airman Benjamin J. Rush

Airman 1st Class Derick S. Kaslon

33d Operations Support Squadron:

Master Sgt. Janice M. Deleon

728th Air Control Squadron:

Capt. Elizabeth L. Krauss

Master Sgt. Ben C. Smith

Master Sgt. Michael A. Woissol IV

Tech. Sgt. Michael W. Hager

Staff Sgt. Bernardina T. Rodriguez

Senior Airman Steven A. Calleiro

Senior Airman Paul J. Gallagher

Senior Airman Timothy A. Fuller

728th Air Control Squadron: (Continued)

Senior Airman Nicolas K. Gebbia

Senior Airman Demetrius S. Townsend

Senior Airman Ryan P. Reinhart

Senior Airman Louis A. Trouche III

Airman James L. Flesher

33d Maintenance Squadron:

Master Sgt. Michael C. Johnson

Tech. Sgt. Cornell R. Davis

Tech. Sgt. Brian K Mott

Staff Sgt. Danyall K. Clark

Staff Sgt. Jamie A. Hatch

Staff Sgt. Troy N. Taylor

Senior Airman Simon J. Casey

Senior Airman Jasmine E. Clark

Senior Airman Duce L. Gasca

Senior Airman Michael D. Hilner

Senior Airman Franklin N. Lucas

Senior Airman Robert J. Markus

Senior Airman Fabian K. Mitchell

Senior Airman Michael J. Thomas

Airman 1st Class Jacob Parr

Airman 1st Class Brian T. Tarrant

33d Maintenance Operations Squadron:

Senior Airman Kimoreen Mckenzie

60th Fighter Squadron:

Capt. Mansour G. Elhihi



Nomads Abroad



Courtesy photo

Senior Airman Candy Preston (left), 33d Fighter Wing information systems apprentice, and Brig. Gen. Ted Kresge (right), 379th Air Expeditionary Wing commander and former 33d FW commander, attend the Secretary of the Air Force dinner, Dec. 19. Airman Preston has been deployed to the 8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron at Al-Udeid Air Base, Qatar, since September.



372nd TS, Det. 19

Promotions

372nd Training Squadron, Detachment 19, Staff Sergeants George Monteiro, technical aircraft maintenance system instructor, and August Gephardt, were promoted to Tech. Sgt. in December.

Awards & Honors

Tech. Sgt. John Lang, weapons instructor, was named the security manager of the Quarter for Eglin from July to September.

Tech. Sgt. Randell McCourt, weapons instructor, was a distinguished graduate at the Non-Commissioned Officers Academy, Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.

33d Fighter Wing

Blood Drive

The 33d Fighter Wing has canceled the blood drive today. You can still give blood at the Northwest Florida Blood Center on Racetrack road in Fort Walton Dec. 6.

Load Competition

A head-to-head weapons load crew competition between the 58th Aircraft maintenance Unit and the 60th AMU is scheduled for Friday at noon, in hanger 1344. For more information please call, Tech. Sgt. Christopher D. Crump at 883-1843.

Fundraiser

The Nomad Association is selling blankets with the 33d FW's 7 squadrons woven in to the fabric. Orders must be placed by Jan. 20. To place an order, e-mail Mrs. Williams at etmimi@cox.net.

All in a holiday's work



Senior Airman Tyler P. Buxton, 58th Aircraft Maintenance Unit crew chief, services an F-15's Airframe Mounted Accessories Drive on the flightline Dec. 29. Wearing the proper safety gear is important, because the AMAD may squirt oil at any time.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Phillip Butterfield

Above: Airman 1st Class Brett J. Gump, 58th Aircraft Maintenance Unit crew chief, crawls along the top fairing of an F-15 cockpit, replacing safety pins Dec. 29. Airman Gump, an Orlando, Fla. native, has been working at the 58th AMU for approximately one year.

Right: Senior Airman Dan A. Swanson, 60th Aircraft Maintenance Unit crew chief, loads an F-15 wing tank handling fixtures in the back of a Colman truck located in front of the AMU Dec. 29, in preparation for an aircraft reconfiguration.



Employees show generosity through Angel Tree program

By Donald Smith Jr.

Air Reserve Personnel Center Public Affairs

DENVER (AFPN) — For the 10th consecutive year, members of the Air Reserve Personnel Center and Defense Finance and Accounting Service at Buckley Annex here came together and participated in the Angel Tree program which netted more than 100 toys for local charities.

There were two Angel Trees set up in the centers. The trees were adorned with tags stating the age of the child and suggestions of what they would like to receive. Some listed one present, while others listed several.

"People are going above and beyond this year," said Senior Master Sgt. Lew Sutton, ARPC's 2005 Angel Tree coordinator.

This year's Angel Tree represented the wants and needs of the youngsters from the Curtis Park Community Center, Day One Day Care Center and ARPC's Operation Warm Heart, a special program designed to help Airmen in need during the holiday season.

"The toys were great," said Julia Hall, the director of emergency services at the Curtis Park Community Center. "They were high-end, high quality toys that the children will thoroughly enjoy."

"[When] I open my office door to a ton of gifts, it's a reminder of how generous people

are," Sergeant Sutton said. "[It's great how] people can dig deep for strangers, making their holidays bright."

Even after hurricane relief efforts and the Combined Federal Campaign, people still found a way to give to those less fortunate this holiday season.

"It's nice [to see] people's generosity," said Senior Master Sgt. Jeff Hancock, the event's co-coordinator.

"Gifts came in from about 100 people," Sergeant Sutton said.

Some of the gifts that made it to local children came from as far away as Arizona and Missouri. They came from individual mobilization augmentees attached to ARPC and heard about the Angel Tree. They asked for names and sent in presents.

"ARPC and DFAS personnel enthusiastically came through, providing anywhere from one to seven items the child had listed, making this program a huge success," Sergeant Sutton said.

Likewise, the 33d Fighter Wing hosted an Angel Tree program, which has been running for approximately six years. The goal is helping Nomads look out for Nomads.

"This year has been a great year, we have been able to help 59 children receive presents," said Capt. Scott A. Schmunk, the wing's executive officer.



Photo By Tech. Sgt. Rob Mines

Senior Master Sgt. Lew Sutton helps load more than 100 donated presents to be delivered to less fortunate families. Sergeant Sutton is with the Air Reserve Personnel Center, Buckley Air Force Base, Colo.



33d Fighter Wing History

Jan. 15, 1941: The 33d Pursuit Group (Interceptor) activates at Mitchel Field, New York, part of the U.S. Army Air Corps' buildup.

Jan. 1, 1971: The 58th Training Squadron conducts a memorial flyover in missing man formation during the pre-game ceremonies for the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans. The Tennessee Volunteers defeat the Air Force Falcons 34-13.

Jan. 19, 1976: The wing sends its only reciprocal engine (prop) aircraft to Davis Monthan AFB, Ariz., for retirement. The C-131B *Samaritan* acted as an Airborne Sensor Relay Post and was the last in Tactical Air Command.

Jan. 7, 1977: The 33d Tactical Fighter Wing alert facility completes its first NORAD Alert Force evaluation. The inspection covers alert response/reaction, interceptor evaluation, written examinations.

Jan. 1, 1979: The 58th Training Squadron is officially designated an F-15 squadron.

Jan. 4, 1982: The wing temporarily assumes peacetime air defense alert, joining NORAD in protecting American air space.

Jan. 5, 1999: Two 60th Fighter Squadron F-15s are part of a six-ship multiservice formation that fired air-to-air missiles against Iraqi aircraft in violation of the no-fly zone over southern Iraq. This is the first air-to-air conformation with Iraq since the end of the Persian Gulf War. No kill is confirmed.

Everyone's sitting alert with Team Eglin



By Lt. Col. Joe Martin, 96th Logistics Readiness Squadron commander and Col. Keith Feaga, 33d Fighter Wing vice commander

Do you remember where you were on Sept. 11, 2001 at 9:45 am? I do. I was just down the hall from my office in room 4B283 of the Pentagon when I heard and felt the impact of Flight 77 hitting the building. Although there was no damage to my immediate area, we all evacuated to the parking lot.

It was there, a short time later, that I first encountered Lt. Col. Keith Feaga, now an O-6 and vice commander of the 33d Fighter Wing.

Technically, we never met that day, but he was there as the lead pilot of an urgently scrambled four-ship of F-15s dispatched from Langley Air Force Base to protect the skies over Washington D.C. Coincidentally, they were not tasked with the alert mission on that day.

I learned of our previous meeting only as a result of the events of Dec. 7, 2005. Allow me to explain.

On Dec. 7, 2005, at 2:10 in the afternoon, Rigoberto Alpizar was shot dead by an air marshal after claiming to have a bomb aboard an outbound flight in Miami.

That event made me reminisce about Sept. 11 and what could have happened if the Miami plane was able to get airborne and worse yet,



what would have happened if the plane became another missile in terrorist hands.

Since I heard that the 33d pulled air defense alert, I asked Colonel Feaga about it. The answer I got was a reminder that we are at war every day here at Eglin; and every one of us needs to act that way. Here's what I learned.

Several times throughout the year and when others need relief (such as after Hurricane Katrina when the New Orleans Air National Guard was out of commission) the 33d pulls alert protecting the skies over the United States.

These alert aircraft sit ready to launch, with the pilots listening for the klaxon sound to scramble into the sky to defend America.

It so happened that on Dec. 7, the 33d was not on alert, much like Langley was not the primary alert aircraft on Sept. 11, but they could have been tasked. They were ready, and in reality everyone at Team Eglin was ready.

If the Miami flight was able to get airborne, the 33d could have been called upon to intercept the flight and do anything from "observe and relay" its movements all the way up to shooting the aircraft down. The pilots train to this mission constantly, but have you ever thought about your role in that mission?

The 33d calls it "connecting the dots" with some dots, such as Petroleum Oil and Lubricants, aircraft maintenance and ammo being



very close to the aircraft and the mission, and other dots still being critical but farther from the individual launch. The message here is that Team Eglin flies alert missions, not just the 33d.

Are you part of weather forecasting or airfield management? Then you sit alert, even though you are in the 46th Test Wing. Are you a security forces Airman protecting the airfield and aircraft, a services Airman providing meals, or a civil engineering Airman maintaining the base? Then you sit alert, even though you are part of the 96th Air Base Wing.

Are you a munitions developer, or weapons tester? Then as part of Air Force Research Lab, Air Armament Center or the 53d Wings you sit alert as well. For without your munitions and missiles, those fighters aren't nearly as intimidating.

Are you a personnel Airman or have some other support function which you find difficult to tie to the fight? Trust me, you sit alert, too, but your critical "dot" is just a little farther from the skin of the aircraft. But it takes every dot working in harmony to fight a war.

We all sit alert, and you need to know what your "dot" does to help fight the war on terrorism right here at Eglin. The two significant events that happened on Sept. 11, 2001 and Dec. 7, 2005 should remind us all that we could launch combat missions — and we must remain ready.



Photo pass request procedures

33d Fighter Wing Public Affairs issues flight line photo passes to any one requesting to either shoot photos or video on the 33d FW ramp and associated flight line areas. Please call or come by our office, which is located in Bldg. 1315, a day prior to your request for a briefing and to receive the appropriate paperwork. Please call 883-4045 for more information.